

CRIME AND DRUGS

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OVERVIEW

The Justice Department's fiscal year 2001 budget will provide a \$1.83 billion increase over the 2000 level. The total \$23.35 billion budget for fiscal year 2001 includes \$3.02 billion funded through mandatory resources such as fees. The discretionary budget of \$20.13 billion is \$1.66 billion over fiscal year 2000's discretionary budget request, an increase of 9 percent.

INCREASE COPS FUNDING

Background

In fiscal year 2001, the Justice Department is seeking an additional \$566.4 million for community law enforcement efforts.

Of that total, \$230.68 million is requested for the Public Safety and Community Policing Grants Program (bringing total funding for this program to \$650 million in fiscal year 2001), of which \$67.5 million is for additional Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring money. Another \$30 million is for new COPS recruiting and training initiatives. \$50 million will be used to hire 300 community prosecutors in other communities to assist in locating witnesses, research information the whereabouts of absentee landlords and identify the ownership of abandoned buildings.

In addition, \$185 million is for grants for crime-fighting technologies (of which \$154 million, 83 percent, is new funding for the Crime Identification Technology Assistance [CITA] Program). The fiscal year 2001 budget proposes \$70 million to address youth and school safety: \$35 million is for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program; \$30 million will be used for school-based problem-solving partnerships; and \$5 million for a value-based youth and police program.

Key Points

- < The Justice Department Inspector General has found that "the COPS grants will not result in 100,000 additional officers on the streets by the end of FY 2000..." In fact, the IG has reported that only 59,765 of the 100,000 officers funded will be deployed.
- < Grantees are not required to retain through fiscal year 2000 at least 31,091 of the total

funded officer positions.

- < The IG also found that State and local law enforcement agencies had not accepted approximately \$485 million in grant funds for 7,722 officers for an average of 1 year after the designated acceptance period.
- < Grantees had terminated at least 500 grants for 1,300 officer positions during the first 4 years of the COPS program, and COPS had not deobligated 127 of those grants totaling about \$15.1 million.
- < Of 67 grantees that received Making Officer Redeployment Effective [MORE] grants, 78 percent could not demonstrate they had or would redeploy officers from administrative duties to the streets.
- < The IG determined that 41 percent of grantees may have used COPS grant funds to supplant local funds, which may have resulted in fewer, if any, additional officers on the street.

GUN VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

Background

The fiscal year 2001 budget request for the Justice Department proposes \$215.9 million in new funding for the Administration's proposed gun violence initiative.

Key Points

- < Federal prosecutions of the criminal use of firearms has fallen from more than 7,000 in fiscal year 1992 to approximately 4,300 in 1998.
- < The budget requests \$150 million in new grant funding for State, local, and tribal jurisdictions to hire or redeploy up to 1,000 community prosecutors in jurisdictions designated by the Justice Department as High Gun Violence Areas.
- < The budget requests \$14.5 million to hire 113 new federal prosecutors and create twenty gun enforcement teams to increase firearms prosecutions.
- < The Justice Department budget also requests an aggregate of \$11.36 million in fiscal year 2001 for the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network [NIBIN]. (This does not include an additional \$30 million requested for the NIBIN for fiscal year 2001 by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.)
- < The fiscal year 2001 budget request also proposes funding: \$10 million for "smart gun"

technologies; \$10 million for the Kids and Guns Local Media Campaign; \$10 million for grants to reimburse state and local law enforcement agencies for the cost of destroying weapons; and \$10 million to expand the Partnerships to Reduce Juvenile Gun Violence Initiative to another 20-25 sites.

CIVIL RIGHTS FUNDING FOR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Background

The fiscal year 2001 budget requests a \$16 million increase in funding for the Civil Rights Division – a 19 percent increase over the fiscal year 2000 enacted level of \$82.2 million. With this increase, the Division’s resources will have grown by 41 percent from the 1999 enacted level of \$69.3 million.

Key Points

- < \$2.35 million and 30 positions for Community Relations Service to dispatch conflict resolution experts to communities experiencing racial conflict and community unrest.
- < \$2.3 million and 12 attorneys are requested to increase the Division’s ability to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- < \$2.1 million to support the Police Use of Force Program Initiative, a comprehensive program to address the appropriate use of controlling techniques by law enforcement officers when dealing with citizens.
- < \$1.8 million and 11 positions (5 attorneys) to help review the various redistricting and other voting changes that will result from the 2000 Census.
- < \$1.3 million to provide litigations support to the Civil Rights Division.
- < \$1.25 million from existing Byrne Discretionary program funding to develop inter-governmental partnerships to respond to hate crimes.
- < \$1 million is requested for the Bureau of Justice Statistics [BJS] to develop and implement a program for producing consistent annual measures of the incidence of hate crime.
- < \$750 thousand, for BJS to help develop a national statistical program to gather data from law enforcement agencies about police-initiated traffic stops. The goal is to determine whether, and to what extent, such stops may be based upon legally inappropriate criteria such as “racial profiling.”
- < \$656 thousand and 5 positions (3 attorneys) to investigate allegations of widespread misconduct or other discriminatory practices or policies by law enforcement agencies.